



NEWS RELEASE

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MARY GILMORE & TOM GILMORE NAMED VETERAN CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR 2006



SANTA ANA, CA – Mary Gilmore and Tom Gilmore, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer, respectively, of Computer Career Connection (CCC), Inc. in West Covina, CA were named ***Veteran Small Business Champions of the Year 2006*** by the Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Their selection was announced by District Director J. Adalberto Quijada, who said, “Mary and Tom identified a need within the veteran community and stepped up to fill it. Their spirit of service and patriotism is truly commendable.”

Louisa L. Miller, Business Consultant with the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center in Victorville, CA nominated the Gilmore siblings for following a vision of helping unemployed, disabled adults overcome their disabilities and integrate back into their communities, that also has become a successful business venture.

Mary’s passion for helping people led her to the Veterans Affairs Administration where she founded the Computer Career Connection (CCC), Veterans Division. By assisting America’s heroes in piecing their lives together, she feels she is giving back to her country. Mary has hired many veterans, some older or handicapped, but she sees the true potential in people not their limitations. The National Association of Women Business Owners honored her as their 1999 Emerging Entrepreneur. She also is an annual speaker for Women in Technology, a yearly conference in Orange County dedicated to mentoring young women in technical careers. In addition, she is active in lobbying for legislation affecting issues such as workers compensation and illegal immigration.

Mary received her Master’s degree in Business Administration from Chapman University. In addition, she is pursuing a Human Resources Certificate at Cal Poly Pomona. She believes and exemplifies that education should be a life-long pursuit.

Tom brings a unique mix of skills to CCC, which coupled with Mary's, creates a dynamic synergy of services. Tom also has the ability to see in others what they cannot see in themselves. Tom gives motivational and educational workshops that inspire people to maximize their achievements. Counselors, students, employees and industry business people attend these workshops.

Tom has served on several statewide volunteer boards including the California Association of Rehabilitation and Reemployment Professionals, California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools and Advisory Committee member for California's Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. Tom has participated in Chapman University's *Leading as a Way of Service Symposium* in 2005 as well as many other ongoing learning programs.

Tom values education and holds a Master's degree in Human Resources Management from the University of Redlands as well as other certificates. He is a counselor, motivational speaker, business partner and dedicated family man. He is active in his church teaching youth religious education classes and has served as church music minister for more than 20 years. Tom is also a professional harpist.

Mary and Tom Gilmore are champions for Veterans and their advocacy efforts are recognized beyond their communities, such as Capital Report, a cable television series hosted by State Senator Bob Margett.

Mary Gilmore and Tom Gilmore will be honored locally at the SBA's Small Business Award Luncheon on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at The Grove of Anaheim, CA. For further information, please call the Orange County Small Business Development Center at (714) 564-5202.

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